

## FRC COMPETITIONS

From Thursday, March 12 to Saturday, March 14, 2015, the Robodox went to the Long Beach Arena to participate in the LA FRC Regional for this year's game: Recycle Rush. Over 60 teams arrived, with two from the South American countries of Chile and Colombia, making the competition grounds for the Robodox's new robot, the Hematologist, even more interesting.

Upon coming to Long Beach, the Robodox's Hematologist had little success. Averaging merely thirty points, the robot wasn't performing as well as the team had hoped.

However, alliance partners quickly noticed the Hematologist's unique and consistent autonomous mode. The robot was able to grab two recycling bins, crucial pieces to the game, preventing the opposing team from having access to them. With this strategy, in addition to the incredible skills of the drive team, the Robodox were

able to make it to the semi-finals.

While the team was working hard on the field, the Robodox worked even harder off the field. Its Robot FIRST AID station and experienced team members were in the pits, helping other teams with their problems. These contributions were so noteworthy that they earned the Gracious Professionalism Award, for the 13<sup>th</sup> time! This places them as the team with the most Gracious Professionalism awards in the world.

The team was determined to bring an even better robot to the next competition, which was especially important to the builders who were excited to try on their new modifications. The team headed out to Ventura College from Friday, March 27 to Sunday, March 29 to participate in the second regional. As soon as the pits opened, the members of the Robodox rushed to work. **(Cont. Page 2)**



Some team members worked on the Hematologist while others headed to the FIRST Aid Station to assist other teams. Everything seemed to be going well. In the first and second matches, the Robodox played adeptly and averaged over 100 points, doing three times better than their average from Long Beach. The modifications worked flawlessly and just as intended.

The auspicious trend continued on the second day of the competition. However, things began to fall apart *very* quickly.

The new bin hugger system did not work as well as expected and there were a few programming issues, but that didn't stop the Robodox from doing their best. They pushed on and made it to the quar-

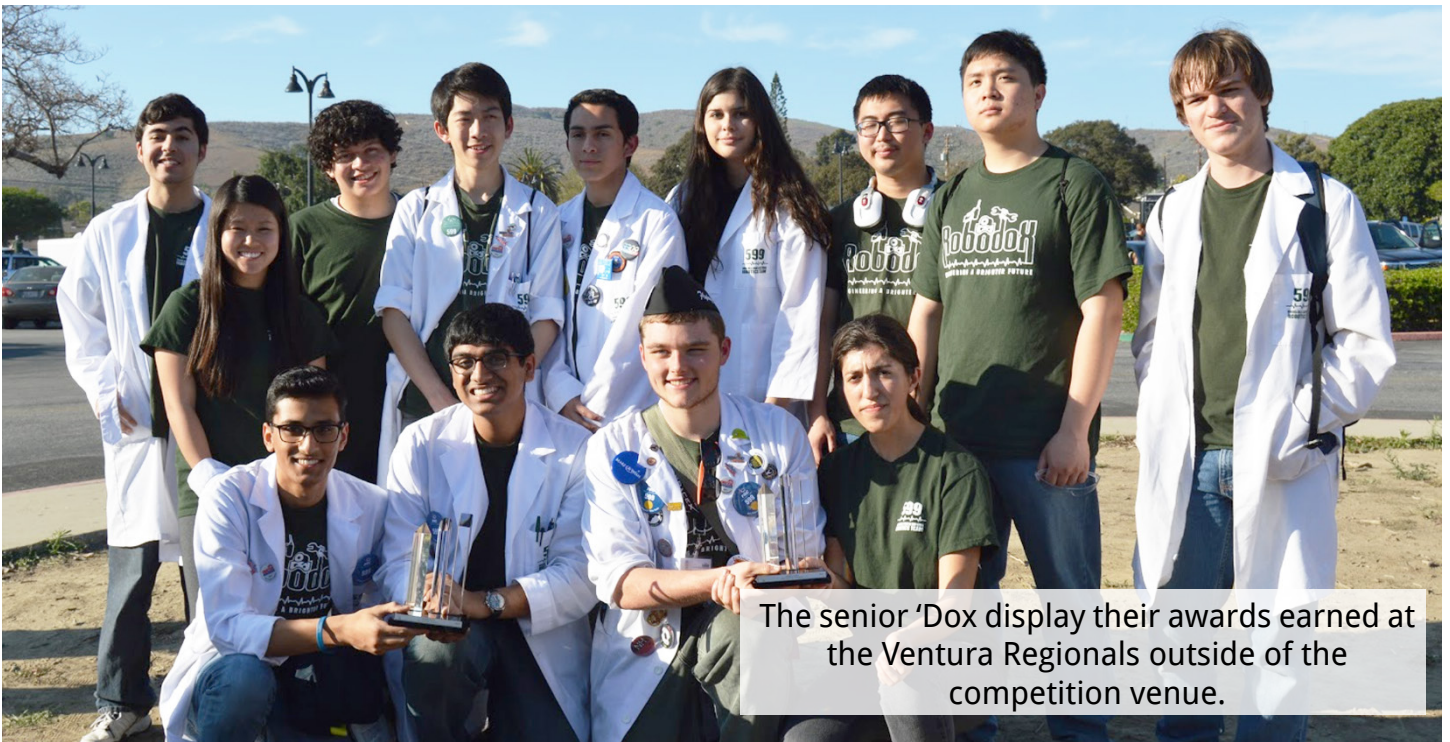
terfinals. But of course, the Robodox's 2015 FRC story didn't end in sorrow. The judges were impressed with the team's side pursuits: the Agalita project, Walker project, and a future project for the Narcotics Enforcement Division. This granted the Robodox the Judge's Award, which the team graciously accepted as they ran through the game field and high-fived the judges.

This marks the end of the 2015 FRC season but the Robodox isn't planning on resting, with many future operations up their sleeves. With the new VEX game being announced in several weeks and Fall Classic coming up, the Robodox are working as hard as ever.

**Go Robodox!**



The 'Dox pose for a photo after a long bus drive from Granada Hills to Ventura College. Highlights of the several bus rides to and from competitions include members catching up on sleep and programmer Michael Lee stopping the bus to use the restroom.



The senior 'Dox display their awards earned at the Ventura Regionals outside of the competition venue.



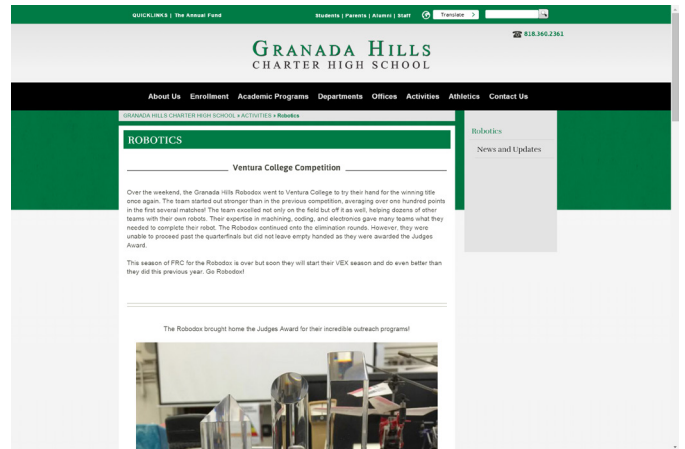
Several of the Robodox seniors, circa the Ventura competition. Clockwise (starting at the top left): Travis, Omar, Hosna, and Eileen.

## GOODBYE, SENIORS

With only a few months of school left, graduation for the seniors is fast approaching. This unfortunately means that the seniors of the Robodox are nearing the end of their experience as members of the team. While it does mark a new age for these new adults, feelings of nostalgia about the memories of past experiences on the team linger. Seniors may have a hard time coping with the fact that they may not get to see Mr. Van everyday as he shouts— er, talks to the members of the team and asks if any of the 'Dox are absent. Seniors may also miss seeing Dr. Koroleva and daughter Katia and their distinct sense of style. However, without a doubt the seniors will miss the hours they've spent together—whether they were invading each other's personal space in the pit at a competition or frantically searching for VEX parts in a corner in K-2.

# THE ROBODOX WEBSITE

After a short hiatus, the team 599 website has been reincarnated into a sector of the Granada Hills Charter High School website, which can be found [here](#) or at *ghchs.com* > *Activities* > *Robotics*. So far, the page is rather bare, but new content is planned to be added soon. CAD files of the team's robot parts will be available in the future in order for the team to re-use parts that are common to the FRC robots that are built each year. Team applications for incoming members will also be available on the website in the near future.



Above is a screenshot of the new Robodox webpage, hosted on Granada's website.

# EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

As the end of the Robodox 2014 to 2015 era nears, team members are planning to run for executive positions for the 2015 to 2016 school year. The Robodox offers six executive branches, with two executive positions each.

Many rookie apprentices are looking forward to running for executive positions and for some branches, there is major competition. Media, for example, has five apprentices— four of which are hoping to take one of the two available executive positions.

The competition for the President positions will also be very interesting to keep up with. Juniors Dylan Leighton, Chris Salgado, and Hersh Gupta in addition to Sam

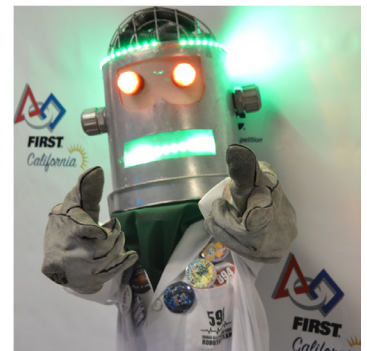
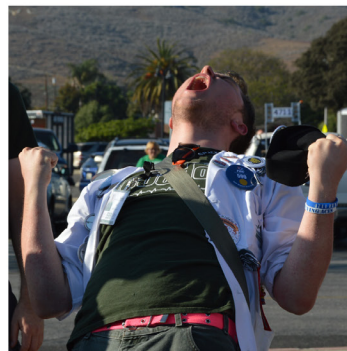
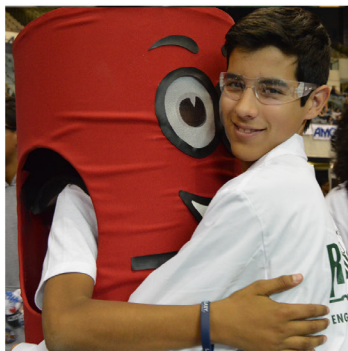
Dobry, a sophomore, are running for presidency. An interesting twist to this election are the credentials of each candidate. To qualify for a position as President, a team member must have served as an apprentice and executive or as an apprentice for two different executive branches. This year's candidates for President have all opted for the former option except Dylan Leighton, who has not held an executive position before. If Dylan wins, he could make history as the first Robodox President who has not been a team executive beforehand.

Altogether, this year's elections will be something to look forward to for all members, as the future executives will play a large role in how the team is run in the 2015 to 2016 school year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- St. Jude Field Trip: Monday, May 4th.
- Annual Robotics Banquet: Friday, May 15th, 6-9 PM in Highlander Hall.

# COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS!



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